India is not sacrificed for the combined interests of funding agencies, multinational pharmaceutical companies who produce these contraceptives, and a callous Government.

Yours Sincerly,

Brinda Karat (AIDWA Primila Loomba (NFIW) N.B. Sarojini (Sama)

K. Lalitha (JWP) Dr. N. Bannerjee (CWDS) Mary Khemchand (YWCA)

Kailash Rekhi (MDS) Seema (Jagori) Dr. Mohan Rao (JNU-)

Dr. Amit Sengupta (DSF)

C/O 121, Vithalbhai Patel House, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001
Tel No: 3710476, 3319566

Female to male ratio in Northern States

43. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether female to male ratio in most Northern States are declining alarmingly due to rampant use of sex determination tests and sex-selective abortions;

(b) if so, how many cases for the last five years till date have been filed under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act;

(c) what steps have, so far, been taken by Government to make the people aware about the provisions of the above Act and to invoke social sanctions against the invidious practice to end famale foeticide; and

(d) what was the outcome of the meeting of 250 religious heads reportedly convened in this regard recently?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The provisional figures of Census 2001 reveal that the sex ratio in the country is 933 females per 1000 males in 2001 as compared to 927 females per 1000 males in 1991. The Census 2001, however, reveals that the situation has worsened in respect of child population in the age group 0-6. The sex ratio in this group has declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001. The decrease has been seen more particularly in the regions of Punjab (793), Haryana (820), Chandigarh (845), Himachal Pradesh (897) and Delhi (865).

(b) The details of the cases of violation of the provisions of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 reported so far given below:

Tamil Nadu

Two cases of violation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 were reported in the State during 1998 and 1999.

Out of the two cases one has been reported in Madurai district. The Joint Director of Health Services, Madurai at Usilampatti who is the Appropriate Authority under the Act at District level has been directed to file a case against the erring Dr. P.A. Chandrasekaran for criminal offence deliberately committed by him in contravention of the provisions of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The other case was reported in Dharmapuri district in which the Superintendent of Police has registered a criminal case No. 16/98 and filed charge sheet.

Delhi

During the last three years one complaint was received regarding violation of the said Act. This was enquired into by the officers of the Department of Family Welfare by inspecting the premises and during inspection, the premises were found deserted. Therefore, no case could be registered. Another case against a Daryaganj based Diagnostic Centre (P.D. Gupta Mediscan Centre (P) Ltd.) for

practicing pre-natal sex determinations was reported in the Express Newsline of the Indian Express of 25th June 2001. The case has been filed in the court.

Haryana

Two complaints regarding female foeticide were received from Jakhal (Fatehbad) and Mohindergarh. The enquiries were got conducted but the charges could not be substantiated for want of evidence against the offenders. One more case relating to a Faridabad based diagnostic centre practising pre-natal sex determination was reported in the Express Newsline of the Indian Express of 25th June 2001. The case has been investigated and has been referred to legal authorities.

(c) The implementation of the Act rests with the States/Union Territories. Appropriate Authorities have been appointed in all States/UTs. Advisory Committee(s) to aid and advise the Appropriate Authorities have been appointed in all States/UTs.

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organization giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. After the Census 2001 figures became available, letters were addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/ UTs to give focussed attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities

and public at large. The co-operation of the NGOs has also been requested in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detect registered/unregistered clinics.

(d) Indian Medical Association in collaboration with UNICEF and National Commission for Women convened a Religious Leaders' Meet against female foeticide/infanticide on 24th June 2001 at New Delhi. The meet was attended by many religious leaders, Government functionaries, doctors, social activists. representatives from media, NGO, educationists and legal experts. One aim of this meet was to seek a consensus amongst leaders of diverse religions who should simultaneously condemn female foeticide and call for its abolition.

All religious leaders out-rightly condemned the practice of female foeticide and gave a call to the citizens of India for shunning this inhuman practice. A copy of the "Oath" taken by religious leaders at the concluding session of the meeting is given in the enclosed statement. *[Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 16]*

CGHS Units in Meghalaya

44. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of CGHS units functioning at present in the State of Meghalaya as on 30th June, 2001;

(b) whether Government propose to open any such Government dispensary/hospital in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) At present there is no CGHS dispensary/unit in the State of Meghalaya.

(b) and (c) Pending implementation of the SIU Report of November, 1999, on the Norms Study of CGHS dispensaries, it